

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 NIC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 SAI-01 /138 W
----- 044332

R 060652Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1035

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 6408

E.19. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD PINT CH JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE STEEL MILL DELEGATION GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT

REF: HK 6309

SUMMARY: HAVING SIGNED A CONTRACT TO IMPORT A STEEL MILL,
PEKING HAS BEEN GIVING RED CARPET TREATMENT TO THE NIPPON
STEEL DELEGATION. PRC COMESTIC NEWS TREATMENT--- UNEXPECTED
IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL HOVEMENT AND UNPRECEDENTEE
OVERALL-- WILL TEND TO REASSURE CADRE INVOLVED IN FOREIGN

COMMERCIAL DEALINGS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IT S SIGNING OF CONTRACT TO SELL A STEEL MILL
TO CHINA (REFTEL), A JAPANESE "ROLLING MILL DELEGATION " HAS
RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT IN PEKING. ACCORDING TO NCNA
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REPORTS, THE DELEGATION, LED BY NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION

CHAIRMAN YOSHIHIRO INAYAMA, WAS RECEIVED BY VICE-PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LI CHIANG ON JUNE 5. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR A TOUR OF SHANGHAI, THE DELEGATION HOSTED A BANQUET FOR CHINA-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LIAO CHENG-CHIH, CCPIT CHAIRMAN WANG YAO-TING, FOREIGN TRADE VICE MINISTER CHAI SHU-FAN AND A HOST OF OTHER RANKING CHINESE ECONOMIC OFFICIALS.

2. WHILE SUCH HIGH LEVEL TREATMENT AND ACCOMPANYING MEDIA COVERAGE IS CONSISTENT WITH PEKING'S PRACTICE SINCE RECOGNITION OF HIGHLIGHTING EXCHANGES WITH JAPAN, IT IS UNPRECEDENTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIGNING OF A COMPLETE PLANT CONTRACT. (SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1973, PRC PURCHASE OF SOME 79 PLANTS WORTH AN ESTIMATED \$1.9 BILLION HAVE GONE UNMENTIONED IN THE CHINESE PRESS. SOCIAL AND REPRESENTATIONAL FINCTIONS GENERALLY HAVE BEEN LEFT TO TRADE CORPORTATION OFFICIALS.) SUCH TREATMENT IS ALSO UNUSUAL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS INILUDED MOUNTING CRITICISM OF OVER-RELIANCE ON IMPORTED FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY.

3. FOR FOREIGN AUDIENCES, THE COVERAGE BY NCNA ENGLISH AND LI HSIEN-NIEN'S ASSOCIATION WITH THE DELEGATION WILL SUPPORT THE REGIME'S LINE THAT THE CAMPAIGN WILL NOT AFFECT CHINA'S FOREIGN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. PRC DOMESTIC MEDIA PLAY, WHICH INCLUDES NEWS OF THE CONTRACT SIGNING ON PAGE FOUR OF THE JUNE 4 PEOPLE'S DAILY WILL ALSO TEND TO REASSURE STATE TRADING CORPORATION AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY CADRES WHO ARE ASSOCIATED WITH FOREIGN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.

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